

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment, the claims are amended without prejudice and no longer recite any multiple dependencies.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
GJM/SNS:aif

I:\ATTY\SNS\271813US-PR.DOC

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423